

1. (currently amended) An aliphatic polyester resin composition comprising a biodegradable polyester resin (A) which essentially comprises an α - and/or β -hydroxycarboxylic acid unit wherein some or all of carboxyl groups of the resin (A) are blocked by 0.01 to 20 parts by mass of a terminal blocking agent (C) consisting of carbodiimide compounds based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (A), and further is crosslinked by at least one crosslinking agent (B) selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate compounds and polyvalent isocyanate compounds, and a peroxide.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent (B) is present in a proportion of 0.01 to 10 parts by mass based on 100 parts by mass of the biodegradable polyester resin (A).

4. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biodegradable polyester resin (A) essentially comprises one of poly(L-lactic acid), poly(D-lactic acid), a copolymer of L-lactic acid and D-lactic acid and a blend of poly(L-lactic acid) and poly(D-lactic acid).

5. (original) An aliphatic polyester resin composition as set forth in claim 1, further comprising 0.05 to 30 parts by mass of a layered silicate (D) based on 100 parts by mass of the biodegradable polyester resin (A).

6. (currently amended) A method for preparing an aliphatic polyester resin composition which comprises a biodegradable polyester resin (A) essentially comprising an α - and/or β -hydroxycarboxylic acid unit wherein some or all of carboxyl groups of the resin (A) are blocked by 0.01 to 20 parts by mass of a terminal blocking agent (C) consisting of carbodiimide compounds based on 100 parts by mass of the resin (A), and

further being crosslinked by at least one crosslinking agent (B) selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate compounds and polyvalent isocyanate compounds, and a peroxide, the method comprising: mixing the biodegradable polyester resin (A) and the terminal blocking agent (C); and then mixing the crosslinking agent (B) and the peroxide with the resulting mixture.

7. (previously presented) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 1.

8. (original) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 2.

9. (original) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 3.

10. (original) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 4.

11. (original) A molded article or a foamed article produced from an aliphatic polyester resin composition as recited in claim 5.